

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A fuel injector-spark plug combination comprising a fuel injector (1) for the direct injection of fuel through at least one spray-discharge orifice (5) into a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, and a spark plug (2) for igniting the fuel injected into the combustion chamber, with a spark-plug insulator (9) that includes a first electrode (10); and having a second electrode (12), which is set apart from the first electrode (10) by a spark gap (13), wherein the fuel injector (1) and the spark-plug insulator (9) of the spark plug (2) are disposed in a shared housing (11) and the spark gap (13) has a width of 50 to 300  $\mu\text{m}$  and is disposed in front of the spray-discharge orifice (5) with a clearance of 3 to 15 mm.

2. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in Claim 1, wherein the second electrode (12) is fixed on the shared housing (11).

3. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the electrodes (10; 12) have a rectilinear design and are in diametrical opposition to one another.

4. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the electrodes (10; 12) are bent in the form of a graduated circle.

5. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in one of Claims 1 through 4, wherein the electrodes (10; 12) are chamfered or taper conically at their ends (14) facing one another.

6. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in one

of Claims 1 through 5,  
wherein the electrodes (10; 12) are arranged in parallel to a longitudinal axis (16) of the fuel injector (1) inside the housing (11) and the spark plug (2) and are bent at right angles to form the spark gap (13).

7. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in one of Claims 1 through 6,  
wherein the electrodes (10; 12) are arched toward one another to form the spark gap (13).

8. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in one of Claims 1 through 7,  
wherein the ends (14) of the electrodes (10; 12) are bent upward at right angles, so that they are situated in parallel to each other.

9. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in one of Claims 1 through 8,  
wherein the fuel injector (1) is designed as an inwardly opening fuel injector (1) having a plurality of spray-discharge orifices.

10. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in Claim 9,  
wherein the parts of the electrodes (10; 12) extending in parallel to an end face (17) of the housing (11) have the same length.

11. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in Claim 10,  
wherein the spark gap (13) is disposed in the axial extension of a longitudinal axis (16) of the fuel injector (1).

12. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in Claim 9,  
wherein the parts of the electrodes (10; 12) extending in

parallel to an end face (17) of the housing (11) have different lengths.

13. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in one of Claims 1 through 8,  
wherein the fuel injector (1) is designed as an outwardly opening fuel injector (1).

14. The fuel injector-spark plug combination as recited in Claim 13,  
wherein the spark gap (13) is located between the electrodes (10; 12), in such a way that a cone-shaped mixture cloud (15) spray-discharged by the fuel injector (1) grazes the spark gap (13) in a tangential manner.